

We want to thank the 200 lot owners (30% of Upper Mountain & Birch Creek owners) for responding to our November 25, 2024, Water Survey. The results let us update contact information and get new insights into Upper Mountain and Birch Creek priorities, wants, and needs. We appreciate your input and encourage keeping contact information current.

Below is a summary of the survey results (de-identified and anonymous).

2025 Water Survey Response

	Full-Time	Mountain	Birch Creek	Totals	Comments
Responses	41	122	37	200	51% by Email & 49% by Mail
% Response Rate	12.6%	33.3%	26.4%	24.0%	31.4% of Mountain & Birch Creek
Comments	6	61	18	85	Categorized & Summarized
% With Comments	14.6%	50.0%	48.6%	42.5%	49.7% of Mountain & Birch Creek
Total # of Lots	326	366	140	832	
% Improved Lots	80.4%	67.2%	70.0%	72.8%	68% of Mountain & Birch Creek
Mountain/Birch Q#1					"The existing water arrangements provided in the Upper Mountain and Birch Creek areas meet my needs."
% Agree		74.6%	51.4%		69.2% of Mtn & Birch Creek Combined
Mountain/Birch Q#2					"Please rank the following in order of importance to you, from 1 to 3 where one (1) is the most important to you and three (3) is the least important to you."
Fire Suppression		181	56	237	1st Priority
Seasonal Culinary		188	61	249	2nd Priority
Year-Around BC Fill		280	79	359	3rd Priority
Mountain/Birch Q#3					"I would support a substantial rate increase in water rates per month and fees for year-round access to culinary water at my lot."
% Agree		30.3%	37.4%		32.1% of Mtn & Birch Creek Combined
Mountain/Birch Q#4					"I am interested in serving as a member of the SMSSD Board."
# of Responses		12	2	14	6 New Individuals
% of Responders		9.8%	5.4%		8.8% of Respondents

The 2025 Survey results are a bit more insightful when compared to the attached 2018 Upper Mountain and Birch Creek Member survey results, which unfortunately were not broken out by area. Differences from the 2025 results, combined for the two areas include:

- Mailed Mountain and Birch Creek surveys increased from 344 to 506 since 2018.
- The percentage response rate dropped from 40% to 31.4%. (Possibly because the Thad's Peak Project satisfied the desire for year-round access to water there.)

- The percentage of seasonal/recreational lot owners who “**agreed**” that “The existing water arrangements provided in the upper mountain and birch creek areas meet my needs,” increased from 60% in 2018 to 69.2% for 2025 - a positive change.
- The ranking of the most **important priorities stayed the same** (the Thad’s Peak project was not on the survey, due to completion), although the difference between fire suppression and seasonal culinary water narrowed from 56 points to 12 points.
- The gap between the top two priorities and year-round culinary water in the Birch Creek area increased by 11 points and is a distant third – similar to the 2018 results.
- In contrast, (although only represented by 26.4% of Birch Creek), the percentage of respondents who “**agreed**” to “I would support a substantial rate increase in water rates per month for year-round access to culinary water at my lot” jumped from 16% in 2018 to 32.1% in 2025.

The comments received (almost 50% of lot owners), as categorized and summarized below, represent wide and diverse opinions. SMSSD finds the comments helpful, as they provide color to the survey results and highlight additional perspectives for consideration.

Summary of Comments

Against year-round culinary water	17
Do not support increase in cost or service	8
Water and dues cost too much	8
Don't use any water	6
Water should be charged by usage	5
FED UP!!!	3
Subtotal Against = 47	
Favor year-round culinary water	11
Impact Fee Questions	3
Water not to be used outside of SMR	2
Allow wheeled ATVs on winter roads	1
Thank you, SMSSD	18
Thank you for Thad's Peak Improvement	4
Interested in being on SMSSD Board	14
Happy with what is being done	3
Subtotal of Thank You = 39	
Total Comments (Some with multiple topics)	103

Finally, we thought it important to share some of the major projects (time, resources, etc.) SMSSD has worked on, in addition to the \$1 Million dollar Thad’s Peak project, where 75% of that funding came from tax dollars that Sanpete County paid into the Central Utah Water Conservation District. CUWCD then allocated money for projects like Thad’s Peak.

Major Water System Projects

Emergency Pressurized Water System Repairs

Booster Station Leak - Replaced water lines from tank to pumps
Overflow RV Park Leak
Short Cut Drive Road Leak
Fairview Drive Road Break
Numerous lower section system repairs with minimal disruption
All repairs while keeping water on and clean for other customers

Major Equipment and Systems Replacements

Clubhouse Well Pump and Clean Casing
Clubhouse Motor and 480 feet of Pipe
Chlorinator at Golf Course Well
Replaced 3 Booster Pump Motors and 1 Pump

New Equipment and System Improvements

Installed Air Vacuums on all Pressure Reducing Valves (PRV's)
Installed Air Vacuums on all Booster Pumps
4" line for Juniper View Drive to resolve pressure problems
Now have 3 backup motors and a spare Pump
Purchased a new service truck with a plow

Thad's Peak Storage Tank, Fill Station, and Surveillance System

Year-Round Water Access and Significant Fire Suppression Capabilities
2025 Consideration of Improved Internet Access via CentraCom Tower

As always, the SMSSD Board welcomes and appreciates customer/member input and will continue to work with full fiduciary responsibility to represent the best interests of SMR members. If you have any questions or suggestions, please look at the resources on our website at www.smssdutah.gov and/or email us at smssd2013@gmail.com.

Regards,

Your SMSSD Board

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